



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 29th, 2013

Dear District Testing Coordinators,

Copies to Superintendents and Charter School Administrators

As previously announced, the State Board of Education has approved Superintendent Luna's proposal to make administration of the Smarter Balanced Field Test to 9th and 10th graders **optional** this spring. This flexibility applies **ONLY** to students in grades 9 and 10. **All students in grades 3-8 and 11 are still required to take the Field Test**, as per state and federal laws governing thoroughness and accountability. Please refer to the memo sent by TJ Bliss to all superintendents and principals on Friday, January 17, 2014 for more information.

The state will upload information for all students into the Smarter Balanced test administration system (TIDE), including all 9th and 10th graders. Districts and schools will be allowed to choose which 9th and 10th graders, if any, to provide test tickets for ahead of the Field Test window later this spring.

In an effort to estimate the number of districts planning to test their 9th and 10th grade students, we ask that you please **complete a two question survey** regarding participation of these grades at each school in your district. You will need to identify your district and which, if either, grade will be participating at each school. If schools are planning to have any students in either 9th or 10th grade participate, please check the box on the survey for that grade.

We appreciate you taking a moment to complete this short survey by **Friday, February 7:**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2SBR78Q>.

Thank you,

TJ

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